

# CITY OF SAINT PETER HOT SHEET



*All the City news you need to know and a little bit more!*

City Info Line 507-934-0675 TDD #711

The City of Saint Peter is an equal opportunity provider.



The following information is a publication of the City of Saint Peter, City Administrator's Office, 934-0663, 227 South Front Street. Please contact us at [barbaral@saintpetermn.gov](mailto:barbaral@saintpetermn.gov). [www.facebook.com/cityofsaintpeter](http://www.facebook.com/cityofsaintpeter)



5/07/2014

**CITY COUNCIL ACTIONS** – Action taken by the City Council at the regular meeting of April 28, 2014 included approval for extension of a balloon payment due on a revolving loan previously provided to St. Peter Community Childcare Center; approval for purchase of road right-of-way and temporary construction easements from three properties at the Old Minnesota Avenue/West St. Julien Street intersection; approval of the 2014 street maintenance program; approval to accept a 15 kw air compressor from Jari USA in lieu of April rent and authorization to sell the air compressor to Quality Products; approval for purchase of two replacement transit buses; approval for a temporary youth fee of \$1.00 per ride on the route system bus for children ages 5-17 during the period June 9-August 29, 2014; and approval of a Tree Worker's license. Action to approve the Electric Fund budget and a rate increase was tabled for two weeks.

The next regular meeting of the City Council will be Monday, May 12th at 7:00 p.m. in the Governors' Room of the Community Center. For more information on City Council meetings, please contact the City Administrator's office at 934-0663. Copies of the Council packet are also available on the City's website at [www.saintpetermn.gov/city](http://www.saintpetermn.gov/city).

**AUTOMATIC PAYMENTS** – Did you know that City utility customers have the option of paying utility bills by automatic payment? Automatic payment is a process by which the payment for the utility bill is deducted from the customer's bank account. Customer's will still receive a copy of their utility bill the first of every month from the Finance Department, however, once an account is set up for automatic payment, the monthly statement will say **"\*DO NOT PAY\* PAID BY DRAFT"** and the amount due will be deducted from the customer's bank

account on the due date indicated on the bill (usually the 15th of the month). If you would like more information on how to sign up for automatic payment of utility bills, please contact the Finance Department at 934-0664.

## **PETS OF THE WEEK** –

The "Pets of the Week" this week include... "Flick". She is ready for adoption after being found in St. Peter on Front Street. She loves to talk and loves attention. She is spayed and declawed



and her adoption fee is \$60.

Next up is Garfield. He was found in Kasota and he is a young adult male orange tabby. He is very affectionate and a very nice cat. He has been neutered already. His adoption fee is \$60.00

Last, but certainly not least, is



George, an adult male, brown and white tabby. He was found in Kasota and he is definitely a lover! George's adoption fee is \$60.



If your family can provide a forever home to any of these great pets, or if you can help any of the animals in the pound find a forever home, please contact Community Service Officer Janet

Thompson at the Police Department at 931-1550, or Alaina at Kind Veterinary Clinic at 931-4700. All animals are spayed/neutered and up-to-date on vaccinations before being adopted out.

**“ICE” YOUR CELL PHONE (In Case of Emergency)** – There’s a nifty idea that’s been going around for many years, yet some people don’t know it could save your life! Just program your cell phone’s contact list with the code word **“ICE”** (In Case of Emergency). Being able to contact someone close to you in the event you are injured or otherwise incapacitated might be really important. It also helps emergency responders identify you. Here’s how to do it....

- Open your cell phone contact list to create a new entry.
- Enter the word **ICE** with the name and number of the person you would like contacted in an emergency.
- To list multiple contacts name the entries **ICE 1, ICE 2, ICE 3**, or like this....
  - **ICE 1**-Husband-Tom
  - **ICE 2**-Mother-Mary
  - **ICE 3**-Son-Joe

If you are in an accident or suffered a medical condition and you can’t answer questions about your medical history, having **ICE** in your cell phone will allow emergency responders to contact those closest to you and learn more about any significant medical information they need to know. It also will allow emergency personnel to identify you if no other information is available and to notify your loved ones about your situation. It’s great to see the technology put to a really beneficial use!

**YOUTH CENTER CLOSING FOR SUMMER** – The Third Floor Youth Center will close for the summer beginning May 23rd. The center will re-open in the fall after school starts. The opening date will be posted on the Recreation and Leisure Services website at [www.saintpetermn.gov/recreation](http://www.saintpetermn.gov/recreation) and flyers will be sent home with students. For more information about the Youth Center, please contact the Recreation and Leisure Services Department at 934-0667.

**COMMUNITY CENTER GYM CLOSURE** – With thousands of people using the Community Center gym throughout the year, annual maintenance of the floor surface is needed to keep it in optimum shape. This year’s annual floor maintenance will take place from Monday, May 19th through Friday, May 30th and the gym will be closed to the public during this time. The walking/running track will also be closed so no dust, paper, etc. will drift onto the

gym floor once the sealer is applied. For questions about this work, please contact the Recreation and Leisure Services Department at 934-0667.



**MEMORIAL DAY CLOSURES** – All non-emergency City offices will be closed on Monday, May 26, 2014 in recognition of Memorial Day. Regular office hours will resume on Tuesday, May 27th. The City Council meeting that is regularly scheduled for May 26th will take place on Tuesday, May 27th beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Governors’ Room of the Community Center.

**GARAGE SALE SIGN REMINDER** - It’s that time of year again....garage sale season! The season comes with the usual collection of complaints and questions regarding garage sale signs. So here’s the important facts to remember:

- No signs may be attached in any manner to a sign post, regulatory sign, street light, tree or any other City or State owned post or facility in the right-of-way.
- Signs must not impede the sightlines of drivers.
- The person who puts the sign up is responsible for taking the sign down immediately following a garage sale and for removing signs which become tattered or loose.
- Any signs which violate these guidelines will be taken down by City employees and disposed of without notice.



And as you are scouting out locations of garage sales, please remember to pull over to the curb before writing down addresses for sales. Don’t stop at a yellow painted curb, don’t stop in the middle of traffic lanes, and be aware of and prevent traffic safety issues. Johnson Park, located at the intersection of Broadway Avenue and Washington Avenue, is a particularly dangerous area for vehicles and pedestrians alike when drivers stop or slow down for a look at the garage sale signs. Thanks for your cooperation!

**RECREATIONAL FIRES** - As the temps get warmer more residents become interested in spending time outdoors during the evening hours and for many of you that means having recreational fires on private property. But before you put match to firewood it is a good idea to review the standards and guidelines for having recreational fires in the city of Saint Peter.

- There must be a fireproof fire ring separating the fire from the surrounding area.

- The fire ring cannot be larger than 36 inches in diameter.
- Only dry kindling wood can be burned in the fire ring. This prohibits the use of wood cut or designed for construction or from construction, including furniture, wood with any finish or foreign substance on it, twigs, leaves, green (wet) wood and anything other than wood cut from trees.
- The wood must be entirely within the fire ring.
- Flames cannot be allowed to reach higher than three (3) feet.
- There must be a garden hose connected to a water source within reach of the fire.
- The fire must be tended at all times.
- The fire must be for recreation only.
- Fires cannot smolder or produce large amounts of smoke.
- The fire or smoke cannot bother any neighbor or other resident of the City.
- The fire cannot be deemed careless in any manner due to strong winds or other circumstances and if the fire is found to be careless in nature, violators will be prosecuted.

By following these guidelines, you and your guests should be able to safely enjoy a recreational fire. This information is also available on the City's website (<http://www.saintpetermn.gov/recreational-fire-standards>) should you need it at a later date. And remember.....in the event of a fire emergency, please dial 911.

**MAKE THE RIGHT CALL!** - All calls to the Police Department are important, but not every call is life threatening. Call 9-1-1 for emergency situations. Emergencies are defined as:

- Any crime in progress (damage to property, burglary, robbery, etc.)
- Any situation where people or property are at risk (fire, children on ice, etc.)
- Any medical emergency (heart attack, accidental poisoning, etc.)



When dialing 9-1-1...

- Stay on the line, stay calm and explain the emergency, as well as the full address where the emergency is occurring. The address and telephone number from which you are calling is automatically displayed to the operator.
- Through appropriate questioning, the 9-1-1 operator will determine what you are reporting and then transfer you to the appropriate emergency service.

- Let the operator control the conversation and stay on the line until you are told to hang up.
- If you are unsure if something that is happening is actually an emergency, dial 9-1-1 and report what is happening to the operator. If they decide it is not an emergency, they will simply ask you to hang up and call the Saint Peter Police at 507-931-1550.

People reporting incidents that are NOT real emergencies often tie up the 9-1-1 emergency line. This can prevent people with real emergencies from reaching the help they require. Here are some tips on how you can minimize your family's chances of inadvertently dialing 9-1-1, and how to handle it if they do:

- If you accidentally dial 9-1-1, **do not hang up**. If you hang up, a ring-back will occur and this wastes valuable time. Stay on the line to advise the operator that you have dialed by accident, and answer any questions they may have.
- Teach your children that the telephone is not a toy and the importance of keeping the 9-1-1 line available for real emergencies.
- Do not preprogram 9-1-1 into your home, business or cellular telephone memory. Cell phones on belts or in purses generate many false calls every day without the owner's knowledge. If your cellular phone has a keypad lock option, this is an excellent way to ensure you won't accidentally dial 9-1-1 and other telephone numbers without your knowledge.
- Do not allow children to have access to deactivated cell phones because although deactivated, these phones can still dial 9-1-1 and can be used to generate false or prank calls.

If you are reporting something to the Saint Peter Police Department that does NOT meet the definition of an emergency (listed above), then dial the Saint Peter Police Department telephone number at **(507) 931-1550**. This can include circumstances that you feel are suspicious or crimes that have occurred and the offender has left and is not returning. You may be directed to visit the Saint Peter Police Department.

If you are reporting a property crime and it does NOT meet the definition of an emergency (listed above), then dial the Saint Peter Police Department telephone number, **(507) 931-1550**. This can include circumstances that you feel are suspicious or property crimes that have occurred and the offender has left.

If you see something that you feel is suspicious—(remember the recent incident in Waseca where many lives may have been saved because one



property owner called the Police to report something that didn't look right to her!) please take action and dial the Saint Peter Police Department at **(507) 931-1550**, to report the suspicious circumstances. Without endangering yourself, obtain as much of the following information as possible and pass it on the police dispatcher.

SUSPECT	VEHICLE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sex</li> <li>• Race</li> <li>• Age</li> <li>• Height/Weight</li> <li>• Build</li> <li>• Complexion</li> <li>• Color of Hair/Eyes</li> <li>• Description of Clothing</li> <li>• Marks, tattoos, scars</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• License Plate Number</li> <li>• Make</li> <li>• Model</li> <li>• Color</li> <li>• The direction the vehicle was going when it was last seen.</li> </ul>

Officers would much rather go out on a call that turns out to be nothing, than to have to respond to something serious that could have been prevented with just one call.

**POLICE OFFICERS MEMORIAL DAY** – Mayor Strand has proclaimed May 15<sup>th</sup> as “POLICE OFFICER MEMORIAL DAY” in the City of Saint Peter in



recognition of the service our Officers provide to the community and their commitment to protecting those they serve. Police

Week has also been proclaimed by Mayor Strand as the week surrounding this special day.

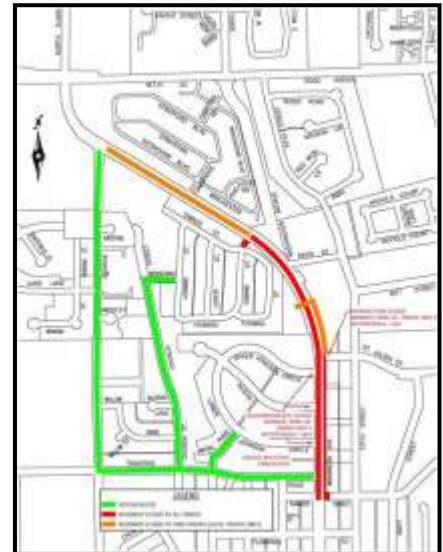
The holiday was created in 1961 when Congress asked the President to designate May 15<sup>th</sup> to honor peace officers. President Kennedy signed the legislation into law on October 1, 1962. In 1994, President Clinton added to the tradition when he ordered United States flags to be flown at half-mast in recognition of those law enforcement officers who made the ultimate sacrifice. The City of Saint Peter will lower flags to half-mast on May 15<sup>th</sup> to recognize our Officer's and all those who give so much to protect us.

Saint Peter residents are encouraged to recognize and thank our local Police Officers for their commitment to keeping us all safe as we honor their sacrifices on Police Officer Memorial Day.

#### WASHINGTON AVENUE LINK PROJECT DETOUR -

*Inclement weather has continued to delay some work on the Washington Avenue Link Project. The following detours will be in place through May 9th....*

- North Washington Avenue access will be closed between 8:00 am- 5:00 pm for residents that live on Lower Johnson Circle, Austin Drive and Upper Johnson Circle. Residents will need to use McGill Place and follow the detour onto Traverse Road. Residents can put out their garbage as usual on Monday for pick up. School bus stops will remain the same and will not be affected by this detour.
- North Washington Avenue and the intersection of St. Julien Street will be closed between the hours of 8:00am-5:00pm. Residents will need to use Fifth Street and follow the detour.
- Utility work will keep moving forward in the Lampert Subdivision on Howard Street, Thomas Street and the Charles Street intersection. This means that access to Washington Avenue will not be available. Lampert Subdivision residents will need to use Woodland Street and follow the detour. The intersection is expected to re-open for access to Washington Avenue North beginning Friday, May 9th.



This information will be updated each week on the City's website at <http://www.saintpetermn.gov/street-projects>. And on the City's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/CityofSaintPeter>.

Drivers are reminded to obey the traffic control signs and to NOT drive around the barricades. This will protect the public from harm and also protect the construction workers as they go about their business.

For those with questions about the project, please contact the Public Works Department at 934-0670.

**PARKS OPENING** – Thursday, May 1st was the official opening day of the City's park system. That means that all parks will be open for visitors and

park restroom facilities and shelters are open for business.

Here's some of what you need to know about the City's parks for your summer fun.....

- The City has several types of parks. To see a copy of the Parks Master Plan, visit the City's website at <http://www.saintpetermn.gov/sites/default/files/documents/public-works/ParksMasterPlan2005Part1.pdf>
- To reserve a park shelter for a party, picnic, get together, etc..... please contact the City's Recreation and Leisure Services Department at 934-0667. The Recreation office is located in the Community Center. You can find out if the shelter is available for the day you are planning your event by checking the City's facilities availability page on the website at [https://apm.activecommunities.com/saintpeter/Facility Search](https://apm.activecommunities.com/saintpeter/FacilitySearch)
- Check out the City's website at the link below for more information on reserving park shelters, regulations concerning alcohol in the parks, and for an interactive tool that can help you find a

park with the specific amenities: <http://www.saintpetermn.gov/parks>

- There is only one park in Saint Peter that allows dogs in the park. The official dog park is located at the intersection of Highway 99 and the Rabbit Road. Dogs are NOT allowed in any of the other parks. The official dog park is a fenced in area where your dog can be off leash in a safe environment. And, should you be walking your dog anywhere in Saint Peter, including the official dog park, please remember that you must clean up after your dog. Pet owners in violation of these rules run the risk of being cited by the Police Department.
- Parking is NOT allowed in any park in any areas that are not officially designated parking lots or parking spaces without specific prior authorization from the City. Violators may be ticketed and towed. Help keep our parks beautiful and safe for those using the park by parking on the street!

## CITY MEETING CALENDAR

This calendar is subject to change. Should you have a question on a meeting date/time, please contact the City Administrator's Office at 934-0663 or visit the City's website at [www.saintpetermn.gov](http://www.saintpetermn.gov).

Monday	May 12	5:00 p.m.		Human Rights Commission
Monday	May 12	7:00 p.m.		City Council Meeting
Tuesday	May 13	5:30 p.m.		Library Board
Thursday	May 15			POLICE OFFICER'S MEMORIAL DAY
Monday	May 19	5:30 p.m.		City Council Workshop
Monday	May 19	7:00 p.m.		Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Thursday	May 22	12:00 noon		Economic Development Authority
Friday	May 23	8:00 a.m.		Tourism and Visitors Bureau
Monday	May 26			MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY – City offices closed
Tuesday	May 27	5:30 p.m.		Heritage Preservation Commission
Tuesday	May 27	7:00 p.m.		City Council Meeting
Wednesday	May 28	12:00 noon		Hospital Commission
Monday	June 2	3:30 p.m.		Housing and Redevelopment Authority
Monday	June 2	5:30 p.m.		City Council Workshop

Tuesday	June 3	5:30 p.m.	Planning and Zoning Commission
Monday	June 9	5:00 p.m.	Human Rights Commission (may be cancelled)
Monday	June 9	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Tuesday	June 10	6:00 p.m.	Library Board
Monday	June 16	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop
Monday	June 16	7:00 p.m.	Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Monday	June 23	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Tuesday	June 24	5:30 p.m.	Heritage Preservation Commission
Wednesday	June 25	12:00 noon	Hospital Commission
Thursday	June 26	12:00 noon	Economic Development Authority
Friday	June 27	8:00 a.m.	Tourism and Visitors Bureau
Monday	June 30	5:30 p.m.	City Council Workshop